

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JULY 6 IS RECOGNIZED AS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE DAY

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, July 6 is recognized around the world as International Cooperative Day. This 74-year old tradition presents an opportunity to people from all corners of the Earth to recognize the important difference that cooperatives make in their lives.

The potential role of cooperative enterprises in promoting economic development in areas of most critical need, in many cases businesses, has been recognized by the United Nations. Last year, the UN declared that the International Day of Cooperatives should be celebrated every year by governments in collaboration with their national cooperative movements.

Next Monday, July 1, cooperative leaders from the United States and from around the world will meet at UN Headquarters in New York to celebrate in International Day of Cooperatives at an event organized by the UN, International Day of Cooperative Alliance, and the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives. This event will provide an opportunity to discuss and to demonstrate the actual and potential contribution of cooperative business enterprise to the achievement of economic goals, including:

The potential of the cooperative movement to participate as a distinct stakeholder and full partner with the United Nations and institutional procedures and structures hereby such participation may be most effective.

The contribution of cooperative business enterprise to the achievement of the goals of the International Year and Decade for the Eradication of Poverty and the realization of the goals of the World Food Summit.

The potential of the cooperative movement to develop human resources and institutional capabilities.

The cooperative movement as a means for the economic, social and political empowerment of women.

The contribution of cooperative businesses to the provision of appropriate and affordable social services.

The capacity of the cooperative movement to undertake appropriate technical assistance as a complement to governmental multilateral and bilateral assistance.

The ways and means whereby partnerships may be strengthened between cooperatively organized business enterprises and the United Nations development system.

I have believed for many years that cooperatives provide people with an economic alternative that empowers them economically to help themselves. Throughout this century, this body has passed legislation that created the spark for cooperative development and opened the door for cooperatives in this country.

The result has been the creation of our rural electric and telephone cooperative systems, the farm credit banking system, the National Cooperative Bank, and credit unions and community development credit unions. All of those have been tools that allow people to accomplish together things they could not accomplish alone. All are owned by the members who benefit from them, and are controlled through the election of boards of directors by that membership.

It is fitting that the international community should recognize that power and the possibilities that cooperatives represent in developing countries. Today, over 760 million people around the world are members of cooperatives. And that fact has made all of their lives a little brighter.

I encourage my colleagues to look to their own districts and recognize the existence of cooperatives there that meet their constituents needs. What you will find is over 100 million Americans and 45,000 businesses ranging in size from small buying clubs to businesses included in the Fortune 500. Today, we have cooperative businesses in the fields of housing, health care, finance, insurance, child care, agricultural marketing and supply, rural utilities and consumer goods and services.

Cooperatives have helped to make this country the economic powerhouse of the world. It's a legacy we should share with the rest of the world.

ATROCITIES AGAINST ALBANIAN COMMUNITY IN KOSOVA

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to draw this country's attention to the most recent atrocities committed by the Serbian Government against the Albanian community in Kosova. Time and again, the international community is bombarded with reports of violence and aggression by the Serbs toward the other ethnic groups in the former Yugoslavia. These actions repulse any decent human being with a sense of morality, but they pale in comparison next to this most recent offense.

Dr. Alush Gashi, who is respected in international circles as a human rights activist, served until lately as an advisor to President Rugova of Kosova. He is now being forced to stand trial before a Serbian-controlled magistrate court on July 1. The charges stem from a time in 1990 when Dr. Gashi, as the dean of the faculty of medicine at the University of Prishtina, opposed the enrollment of 250 Serbian students despite the Serbian Assembly's ruling to the contrary. His decision was not without validation because these students had apparently failed to take the university's entrance exam and were therefore not qualified for enrollment. Nevertheless, Dr. Gashi was

fired from his position and will now be subjected to a fraudulent trial along with all of its attendant horrors.

The Albanian majority in Kosova has been treated brutally by a Serbian regime which shows no regard for their fundamental human rights. Dr. Gashi's trial is yet one more step in this campaign to suppress all opposition to the Serbian domination. By voicing his disgust with the deteriorating health conditions faced by the Albanian people in Kosova, Dr. Gashi has taken a brave but dangerous step in criticizing the Serbian regime. If the rights of Kosova's Albanian citizens are to be recognized, though, Dr. Gashi and others like him must be permitted to speak out loud.

For this reason, I urge my colleagues to stand with me against this campaign of terrorism and intimidation. We should not continue to sanction these unrelenting attacks on the Albanian population with our silence. Only vocal opposition and recognition of the human rights abuses committed by the Serbs will force the regime to comply with the international community's accepted standards of behavior. Dr. Gashi and the rest of the Albanian population are depending upon us to act on their behalf.

OPPOSITION LETTERS TO THE UNION PACIFIC AND SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD MERGER

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I am offering recent submissions to the Surface Transportation Board regarding the proposed merger of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific railroads by members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure describing their opposition to the proposal.

This merger proposal has generated substantial opposition including from shippers, all levels of government (Federal, State, and local), farm interests, and labor interests. I am confident the Board will consider this opposition as it deliberates on the merger proposal next week.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, June 20, 1996.

Hon. LINDA J. MORGAN,
Chairman, Surface Transportation Board,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MORGAN: I am writing to express my strong concerns about the proposed merger between the Union Pacific Railroad and the Southern Pacific Railroad. The Merger as proposed appears likely to substantially reduce competition and raise rates for shippers and consumers. For these reasons, the Departments of Justice, Transportation, and Agriculture have all opposed the merger. I agree with the recommendations of these agencies and urge that the merger be disapproved, unless it is possible

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